

EXHIBIT

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DATE

3-23-12

HB

SB 265

March 22, 2013

Attn: Montana House Natural Resources Committee

Re: SENATE BILL NO. 265

The Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch Board (an advisory board of the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners), after lengthy meetings and much discussion, has voted unanimously to respectfully request that you **vote in favor of SB265** "AN ACT EXTENDING THE SUSPENSION OF WATER RIGHT ADJUDICATION DURING NEGOTIATIONS OF INDIAN AND FEDERAL RESERVED WATER RIGHTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 85-2-217 AND 85-2-702, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

We are aware that the water rights compact is already years in the making, however we feel that an extension is necessary in order to provide a completed agreement that law makers can knowledgeably vote upon. Rushing the vote because of an arbitrary deadline seems foolish when dealing with such an important matter.

Please vote in favor of SB265.

Respectfully,

Jim Ellingson

Chairman

Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch Board

Hamilton, Montana 59840